



# SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release – August 14, 2009*

## CHIEF COUNTS ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

The Salem Fire & EMS Department announced the promotion of two individuals today, effective immediately. Lt. Eddie Hite has been promoted to Fire Captain, while Senior Firefighter/EMT Scott Gibson has been elevated to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

"I have had the pleasure of watching these two Firefighters grow, both personally and professionally, during their tenure with the department," says Chief Pat Counts. "They have proven to be very conscientious and dedicated public servants with strong work ethics."

Both men are Salem natives who continue to make their homes in the city. Hite is a 1982 graduate of Salem High School, who will mark his 25th anniversary with the department next month.

"It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve the citizens of Salem and those who visit our city and I cannot tell you how exciting it is for me to have been chosen by Chief Counts for this opportunity," says Hite. "As a parent, to see my son's excitement was worth millions. I will cherish that forever."

Gibson has been with the department for 13 years, and he is also well known in the community as the head coach of the Roanoke College women's tennis team. Gibson was a standout tennis player at Salem high school before serving his country in the Navy in Operation Desert Storm.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be promoted to a leadership role in the Salem Fire and EMS Department," says Gibson. "But most of all, to live and work in a city that has been good to me and my family."

"Both Eddie and Scott could be used as role models for their natural abilities for interacting with their peers, and most importantly, the citizens of the City of Salem for which they serve," says Counts. "I am very proud to see them reach this milestone in their careers as they serve the department in a leadership role."

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